

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding implication of Ukraine war on students.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Thank you, Sir. The impact of the raging war in Ukraine on the lives of Indian students and other citizens remains a humanitarian and ethical issue. It should be dealt with by the Government seriously as they have survived a war and are victims of the war due to the loss of education, abrupt halt in studies and uncertain future compounded by looming debt traps for families who took loans for securing the future of their children.

The Government must devise and establish a comprehensive policy for ensuring the future of students and guarantee their education to be unaffected. The Government should grant compensation to the students for their losses and their emotional and physical well-being restored thus. The Government has announced that the students who returned from Ukraine will be able to complete their education in India after a screening test. This entire process must be held in a student-friendly manner where the condition of students, who are suffering trauma, must be given due consideration. The majority of families of the students, who returned from Ukraine, are staring at significant debts and by taking note of the situation that it is an act of war which neither the students nor their families could foresee and is absolutely unexpected, their educational loans must be waived. The students who have faced emotional trauma must be provided with specialized care to help them overcome the terrifying experience they had to face in the battle zone. The students must also be given a supporting hand by the Government to find their own livelihood.

By sensing the shortcomings in coordination and evacuation mission, the Government must appoint a Student's Welfare Wing in every Embassy and Consular Office of India in foreign countries that will function round the clock. A master control room should also be set up in the External Affairs Ministry Headquarters as a policy intervention mechanism for any eventuality arising against the Indian students.

I would like to request the hon. External Affairs Minister through you, Sir, to come forward and make a statement in this regard in the House.